

Matthew 6:7-8 "When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. 8 Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!

Matthew 6:31-32 31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we

drink? What will we wear?' 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs.

Icebreaker

Tell the group about a childhood pet.

Conversation Starters

- 1. Which of the stories Alice told about her dogs could you relate to most? Why?
- 2. When it comes to prayer are you more anxious? Confused? Hopeful? Checked out? Be honest.
- 3. What are some truths you have been told about prayer that you are starting to question? Give real examples.
- 4. Has God ever come through for you in a way that has been "over the top" like Alice's story of an entire pan of lasagna falling on her dog's back? Tell the group that story.
- 5. What about when you pray and pray and you sense God telling you "no." How does that feel? How does it impact your faith?
- 6. What do you think the difference is between anxiously bugging God about something and "praying without ceasing?" Why are those two things so easy to confuse?